



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JUL 06 2010

The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
4 East University Parkway
Baltimore, Maryland 21218-2437

Dear Reverend Sutton:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2010 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expressing concern about the potential impact of the Sparrows Point Severstal Facility on citizens who live in the Dundalk area, including your parishioners.

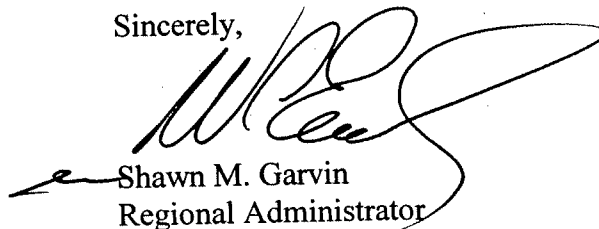
The Severstal Company (Severstal) is presently implementing a study of contamination at the Sparrows Point Severstal Facility in accordance with the terms of a federal consent decree (CD), which requires Severstal to fully define the extent of contamination resulting from facility-related activities. In accordance with that consent decree, EPA has instructed Severstal to collect offshore sediment and water samples surrounding the steel mill. The steel mill is located at the mouth of Bear Creek, and thus the investigation will include the lower reach of Bear Creek. EPA has sequenced the Sparrows Point investigation beginning with the identified sources of contamination and moving outward; that is, the offshore investigation will begin near shore where potential impacts from the steel mill are most likely to be found. Based on the initial sampling results, EPA may expand sampling outward and upstream of Bear Creek as appropriate.

Severstal has disputed this requirement to collect offshore samples, in the manner provided for by the CD. The process to determine Severstal's obligation is currently ongoing; either a decision will be agreed upon by the parties to the CD or the court will render a final determination.

Your letter states that "[i]t is our understanding from publicly available documents that harmful pollutants exist in areas where the people we serve, live and play." EPA has reviewed an August 1997 study, Spatial Mapping of Sedimentary Contaminants in the Baltimore Harbor/Patapsco River/Back River System, conducted by a number of university researchers contracted by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The 1997 report concluded that, "Zinc, chromium, and lead were enriched in Bear Creek, presumably influenced by runoff from Sparrows Point industrial complex." EPA's toxicological review of the concentrations of these contaminants shows that they do not exceed EPA's initial screening levels and extrapolations used to determine whether further assessment of a potential human health threat is required. Based upon the 1997 study, there is no basis to require Severstal to take action regarding contaminants in Bear Creek at this time.

EPA will use the results from the Severstal offshore study to draw conclusions on the impact of the facility on Bear Creek. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn M. Garvin', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'S' and 'G'.

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

JUL 06 2010

The Most Reverend Denis J. Madden
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore
320 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Reverend Madden:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2010 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expressing concern about the potential impact of the Sparrows Point Severstal Facility on citizens who live in the Dundalk area, including your parishioners.

The Severstal Company (Severstal) is presently implementing a study of contamination at the Sparrows Point Severstal Facility in accordance with the terms of a federal consent decree (CD), which requires Severstal to fully define the extent of contamination resulting from facility-related activities. In accordance with that consent decree, EPA has instructed Severstal to collect offshore sediment and water samples surrounding the steel mill. The steel mill is located at the mouth of Bear Creek, and thus the investigation will include the lower reach of Bear Creek. EPA has sequenced the Sparrows Point investigation beginning with the identified sources of contamination and moving outward; that is, the offshore investigation will begin near shore where potential impacts from the steel mill are most likely to be found. Based on the initial sampling results, EPA may expand sampling outward and upstream of Bear Creek as appropriate.

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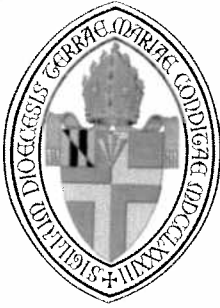
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Sincerely,

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Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator



ARCHDIOCESE
of BALTIMORE
THE PREMIER SEE

May 11, 2010

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Mail Code: 3RA00
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

RECEIVED

MAY 17 2010

EPA, REGION III
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Re: Sparrows Point Consent Decree

Dear Mr. Garvin:

We are writing to express our concern about the Severstol Sparrow's Point facility and surrounding community of Dundalk. We serve as bishops in the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, representing over 100,000 individuals, including five parishes in the Dundalk area.

As spiritual leaders in our respective dioceses, we are concerned with the health and well-being of all people, as well as the environment in which they live and recreate. It is our understanding from publicly available documents that harmful pollutants exist in areas where the people we serve live and play. We are concerned about the potential risk to public health from exposure to chemical contaminants and we believe that Dundalk's citizens have a right to know of any potential risks associated with exposure to such contamination.

To that end, we respectfully request a full investigation into the possible contamination of Bear Creek and other areas where pollution from the site has been identified. Due to the concern for the safety of the residents and for the protection of the resources God has entrusted to our care, we ask that this issue be addressed immediately and thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

The Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Most Rev. Denis J. Madden
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore

